

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5847

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 3868

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PINR TW

SUBJECT: ROC VICE FOREIGN MINISTER TS'AI WEI-P'ING RETIRES FROM
MOFA

1. LOCAL MEDIA ANNOUNCED ON JUNE 28 EXECUTIVE YUAN APPROVAL OF TS'AI WEI-P'ING'S RETIREMENT AS ADMINISTRATIVE VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE RETIREMENT OF THE 64-YEAR OLD VICE MINISTER WILL BE EFFECTIVE JULY 1. ON THAT DATE TS'AI WILL BECOME DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (IIR) REPLACING RETIRING NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMAN AND EX-AMBASSADOR HANG LI-WU (2635/4539/2976). THE IIR, ONCE OFFICIALLY A GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION, WILL BECOME ON JULY 1, A PART OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF NATIONAL CHENG-CHIH UNIVERSITY. ACCORDING TO TSAI, IT WILL ENJOY NEAR COMPLETE AUTONOMY, ONLY BEING TIED TO CHENG-CHIH FOR HOUSE-KEEPING AND BUDGETARY PURPOSES (COMMENT: WHATEVER AUTHONOMY IT ENJOYS WILL PROBABLY OWE MORE TO TSAI THAN TO STRUCTURAL ARRANGEMENTS.)

2. TS'AI'S DUTIES IN MOFA WILL BE ASSUMED BY RECENTLY APPOINTED VICE MINISTER CH'EN FU. UNLESS RESPONSIBILITIES ARE REALIGNED, CH'EN'S WILL INCLUDE NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS, THE TREATY DEPARTMENT, CONSULAR AFFAIRS, PERSONNEL, FINANCE, CODE OFFICE (CABLE SECRETARIAT) AND ARCHIVES.

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TS'AI TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT A THIRD VICE FOREIGN

MINISTER WOULD NOT BE APPOINTED FOR AT LEAST ONE TO TWO MONTHS.

3. COMMENT: TS'AI WAS WELL LIKED IN MOFA. SOME ROC FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS HAVE SAID THAT TS'AI HELD THE MINISTRY TOGETHER AND WOULD BE MISSED. AS FAR AS THE EMBASSY IS CONCERNED, WE ANTICIPATE NO PROBLEMS IN THE SHIFT OF TS'AI'S RESPONSIBILITIES TO CH'EN WITH WHOM WE HAVE DEALT FREQUENTLY IN THE PAST WHEN HE WAS DIRECTOR OF GIO. TS'AI'S WARMTH AND AFFABLE PERSONALITY, HOWEVER, WILL CERTAINLY BE MISSED.
UNGER

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